

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER**  
**APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2011**

**Instructions**

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to:  
[Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov)
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

*PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.*

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**Project Details**

**1. Project title:** Swan Island Training Center

**2. Organization name and address** (the recipient of the funds):

Portland Community College  
PO Box 19000  
Portland, OR 97280-0990

**3. Contact information**

- a. **Project's primary contact:** Alan Sprott
- b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** 503-783-0875
- c. **Email Address:** [asprott@vigorindustrial.com](mailto:asprott@vigorindustrial.com)
- d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address):

Vigor Industrial  
5555 N. Channel Avenue  
Portland, OR 97217

**4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

While the funding for this request would be received by Portland Community College (PCC), it is being requested by their partner in this venture, Vigor Industrial. PCC is a public community college. Vigor Industrial is a private, for-profit company in Portland.

**5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

Portland Community College is a public entity. Vigor Industrial is a private, for-profit entity.

**6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

We are requesting funding through the Financial Services Appropriations bill, in the Small Business Administration account.

**7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).**

Portland, Oregon has a strong cluster of small to medium size firms engaged in fabricating steel structures and manufacturing and repairing transportation equipment. These firms manufacture and export a range of products and services that bring billions of dollars into Oregon's economy. Some of the products manufactured by these Oregon firms include barges, railcars, trucks, dam gates, nuclear waste tanks, bridges, components for repairing ships, and renewable energy equipment. Supporting this manufacturing cluster is a highly mature network of companies providing industrial painting, steel manufacturing, scrap recycling, equipment sales and repair, as well as ancillary services such as insurance, banking, legal, and engineering. Collectively, this sophisticated network of clusters has developed out of the timber and shipbuilding industries over the past century, and would be nearly impossible to replace or replicate.

A critical element to the continued prosperity and competitiveness of Portland's unique manufacturing base is the availability of a skilled workforce, particularly in the area of the metal trades. Unfortunately, vocational training has systematically been eliminated from the K-12 public education system, with the burden now falling on employers and community colleges to develop the trade skills. Many area employers are unable to find enough trained applicants to fill available positions. Portland Community College (PCC) and Vigor Industrial formed a partnership in 2007 to confront this challenge by creating a center to train welders. The Swan Island Training Center is a public-private partnership providing an institutional training curriculum for welders in a manufacturing setting at Vigor Industrial's facility. Vigor Industrial provides the classroom and equipment at its shipyard, PCC provides the administration and instructors for the program.

The Swan Island Training Center can only be described as a success. It adopts the community college approach to education in that classes are scheduled so students can continue to work while they develop new skills and career paths. With existing staff, the program can accommodate up to 26 students who progress through either a one or two year program. The classes are also open to local employers and unions seeking short-term instruction to improve their welders' skills. Students can also elect to test for a Structural Welding Certificate under the American Welding Society Standard.

To date, over 134 people have participated in the program. The current class is at the maximum capacity of 26 students, with 107 people on the waiting list to enter the program. The only barrier to accommodating more people is the availability of instructors.

Funding in the amount of \$250,000 is requested to fund an additional instructor's position. This additional instructor will enable opening a new class session that will train 44 new welders over a two year time frame. Graduates of the program will fill new positions at manufacturing firms.

The funding will also be used to purchase a submerged arc welder for use in the training center. Submerged arc welding is a highly valuable skill in structural welding, and PCC is the only institution providing such training.

**8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The purpose of this project is to provide training to prospective workers in the metal trades, making them more attractive to potential employers. The project is also designed to help local businesses who currently are unable to find enough qualified applicants for existing positions.

**9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

No.

**9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

N/A

**Funding Details**

**10. Amount requested for this project: \$250,000**

**11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

Lincoln DC 1000 Submerged Arc Welding Machine - \$15,000

Instructor salaries and administrative costs for two years - \$235,000

**12. What is the total cost of the project?**

\$450,000

**13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?**

Yes.

**14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

PCC is currently providing the funding for an instructor and administration of the program, while Vigor Industrial provides the classroom space and equipment.

**15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.**

Portland Community College

Working Waterfront Coalition

Columbia Wire and Iron

**Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:**

**Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov**

***Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, [Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov)***

***Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, [Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov)***